

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested. After entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-2, 4-20, and 23-25 remain pending in the present application. No new matter has been added.

By way of summary, the Official Action presents the following issues: Claims 1-9, 12, 19-20, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Oho et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0184515 A1, hereinafter “Oho”); Claims 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oho in view of Tanaka et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114466 A1, hereinafter “Tanaka”); Claims 13-14, 16-18, and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oho in view of Alain et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0110131 A1, hereinafter “Alain”); and Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oho in view of Alain and O’Neil (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0085490 A1).

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-9, 12, 19-20, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Oho. In light of this rejection, independent Claims 1, 19-20, and 23 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention and to thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied reference.

Amended Claim 1 recites an information device, including, in part, “means for reading out the license identification information from the encrypted content”

Applicants respectfully submit that Oho fails to disclose or suggest these features.

Oho concerns license information that includes a content identifier.¹ The Oho content storage does not include license identification information.²

¹ Oho, Figure 14B.

Applicants respectfully submit that Oho fails to disclose or suggest “means for reading out the license identification information from the encrypted content,” as recited in amended Claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over Oho.

Applicants further submit that Claims 19-20 and 23 are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1 and for the more detailed features presented in those claims.

Claims 13, 16-18, and 24-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oho in view of Alain. In light of this rejection, independent Claims 13 and 24-25 have been amended to clarify the claimed invention and to thereby more clearly patentably define over the applied references.

Claim 13 recites an information server, including, in part, “means for receiving a license request from the one of the plurality of information devices . . . , the license request including the grouped device identification information and license identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license” Applicants respectfully submit that Oho and Alain fail to disclose or suggest these features.

Oho concerns an issue request that includes a content identifier.³ Applicants respectfully submit that Oho fails to disclose or suggest “means for receiving a license request from the one of the plurality of information devices . . . , the license request including the grouped device identification information and license identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license,” as recited in amended Claim 13.

² See id., Figure 10.

³ Oho, Figure 14A.

Applicants respectfully submit that Alain does not remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Oho. It is noted that the Office does not rely on Alain for such features.

Applicants submit that Alain and Oho, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest “means for receiving a license request from the one of the plurality of information devices . . . , the license request including the grouped device identification information and license identification information associated with the encrypted content and corresponding to the license,” as recited in amended Claim 13. Accordingly, it is submitted that independent Claim 13 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably distinguishes over any proper combination of Alain and Oho.

Applicants further submit that independent Claims 24-25 are allowable for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 13 and for the more details presented in those claims.

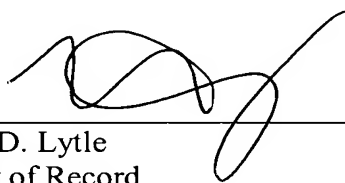
Dependent Claims 10-11 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Oho in various combinations with Tanaka, Alain, and O’Neil. Applicants respectfully submit that Tanaka, Alain, and O’Neil fail to remedy the above-noted deficiencies in Oho. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of dependent Claims 10-11 and 15 are moot.

CONCLUSION

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, including Claims 1-2, 4-20, and 23-25, is patentably distinguished over the prior art and is in condition for allowance. Such an allowance is respectfully requested at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

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